

Daylight Saving Time

**Sunday,
March 8, 2015**

**SPRING
FORWARD**

PRESORTED
STANDARD MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PORTLAND, OR
PERMIT NO. 700

Smoke Signals

A Publication of the Grand Ronde Tribe

MARCH 1, 2015

www.grandronde.org

UMPQUA ■ MOLALLA ■ ROGUE RIVER ■ KALAPUYA ■ CHASTA

Leslie Riggs takes lead role at Education

By Ron Karten

Smoke Signals staff writer

The Tribe filled the top spot in the Education Department that had been vacant for three months on Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Leslie Riggs, 47, former supervisor for the Tribe's 477 Program, moved into the job.

It is not a small jump – from managing six employees to almost 50 – but not too big for his talents, either.



Leslie Riggs

Riggs says he manages “in a very democratic way; not asking anyone to do anything I wouldn't do. I'm willing to work long hours.”

As he acclimates himself to the job, he says he wants to know where his program leaders excel and where they might need assistance. Whatever that is, he wants to provide it for them. He wants to be the kind of manager who “gets out of the way and lets people do their jobs.”

That gives him time, almost right away, to keep his focus on grant issues.

In these early days, he continues meeting with program heads to bring him up to speed, to acquaint him with issues needing quick attention

See EDUCATION
continued on page 4

Arbor Day



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Tribal Council member Jon A. George, right, puts a mixture of sage and tobacco in the ground that he dug up during the groundbreaking held on Monday, Feb. 23, for the new arbor being built at Uyxat Powwow Grounds. The sage and tobacco acknowledge that the digging of the earth is not just for fun, but for a purpose. Also taking part in the groundbreaking ceremony was, from left, Tribal Council members Ed Pearsall, Tonya Gleason-Shepek, Denise Harvey and Cheryle A. Kennedy and Tribal Council Vice Chair Jack Giffen Jr. To find out more about the arbor, turn to the Tribal Council story on Page 5. At right, from left, Tribal Council member Jon A. George, Bobby Mercier, Travis Stewart, Jan Looking Wolf Reibach and Reina Nelson sing a blessing.



Legislative Day showcases Oregon Tribes



Photo by Michelle Alaimo

Oregon State Sen. Arnie Roblan, left, talks with Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno, middle, and Tribal Council member Ed Pearsall during Tribal Governments Legislative Day in the State Capitol Galleria in Salem on Thursday, Feb. 19.

By Dean Rhodes

Smoke Signals editor

SALEM — State employees, elected officials and members of the general public swarmed around nine tables set up by Oregon's federally recognized Tribes in the State Capitol Galleria on Thursday, Feb. 19, during Tribal Governments Legislative Day.

Those dropping by included Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, who went from Tribal table to Tribal table, thanking representatives for being in the State Capitol building.

“I am here to honor what you're doing,” she told Grand Ronde Public Affairs Administrative Assistant Chelsea Clark, Tribal Council Chief of Staff Stacia Martin and Tribal Council Administrative Assistant Shannon Simi, who were handing

Visit the Tribe's
facebook
page to see more photos

out copies of *Smoke Signals*, the Tribe's ceded lands map, Tribal lapel pins and the very popular chocolates shaped in the form of the Grand Ronde Tribal logo.

“I heard you had chocolate,” more than one person said while approaching the Grand Ronde table.

Sponsored by the Legislative Commission on Indian Services and Oregon's Tribes, the day's intent was to provide a time for state legislators and government employees to visit and chat with

See LEGISLATIVE DAY
continued on page 12